

MUNICIPAL COURT

Municipal Court exists to serve the citizens of the community by impartially upholding the law and facilitating the interests of justice for all citizens in a thorough and fair manner.



Overview

Municipal Court is organized into Court Clerk's Office and Probation. The Court Clerk's Office is responsible for processing transactions related to court and traffic records. The Probation Office assists judges in defendant evaluation and monitoring of prisoners and probationers.



Municipal Court operates five courtrooms in City Hall, with environmental court held periodically at neighborhood Police substations.

Municipal Court operates three traditional courtrooms. A Video Court also is used to arraign prisoners from the county jail via a video connection. Hearings for traffic violations are held in an Administrative Traffic Court, and environmental cases are heard in a rotating Neighborhood Court. Specialized dockets have been established for driving under the influence (DUI), criminal, domestic violence and traffic offenses.

Finance and Operations

The Public Safety Initiative was launched in 1995. Police, Court and Prosecution staff resources were augmented by adding a total of nine full time positions. These positions included staff for an additional Administrative Traffic Court (2 positions); staff for the Neighborhood Court (3 positions); two additional staff to improve customer service; a position to enhance collections activity; and a fingerprint clerk to comply with state requirements regarding fingerprinting those convicted of class A and B misdemeanors. Seven of the Public Safety Initiative positions are in the Court Clerk's budget and two are in the Probation office.

A drug court was established in 1995 and remains the only operating drug court in Kansas. The court operates under the philosophy that a drug court team can provide better opportunity for long-term changes in drug users. The goal is to break the recurring cycle of repeat offenders. One method of monitoring the participants is via random urine analysis (UA). Additional funding for UA supplies is included in 2002 for the increased number of tests performed. A drug court software program is planned for implementation in 2001 with appropriate funding included. The software will consolidate defendants' information, providing the drug court team one centralized access point.

Additional automation changes include the replacement of the Public Safety System in 2002 and the implementation of an interactive voice response system. The Integrated Public Safety System offers a centralized database to be shared and utilized by Police, Prosecution, and Court. The new system will utilize bar code and drivers' license scanning, imaging, and Internet. The new interactive voice response system will improve the dissemination of court information and will be implemented upon completion of the new Public Safety system.



Municipal Court is responsible for collecting a variety of court-imposed fines, fees and penalties. Revenues include court fines, traffic fines & fees, diversion fees, court costs,

warrant fees, and other revenues. The revenues offset a portion of the costs for adjudication, prosecution and enforcement efforts of Municipal Court, the Law Department and the Police Department.

An atrium between City Hall and the parking garage was finished in 2000. An elevator and stairs to the 2nd and 3rd floors were included in the design to enhance access to the courtrooms and the court clerk's office for the 1,300 citizens who visit daily.

In conjunction with the atrium, an extensive remodeling project for Municipal Court was completed in 2000. The remodeling consolidated all courtroom operations, with

the exception of environmental court, to the third floor. The second floor houses the Court Administrator, Probation and Court Clerk's Office for payment of fines and penalties.

Court Clerk's operations includes docket clerks and judges, who staff court rooms; customer service clerks who assist citizens either on the telephone or in-person; file clerks who assist in general docket preparation and file processing along with other positions that support the general administration of the Court.

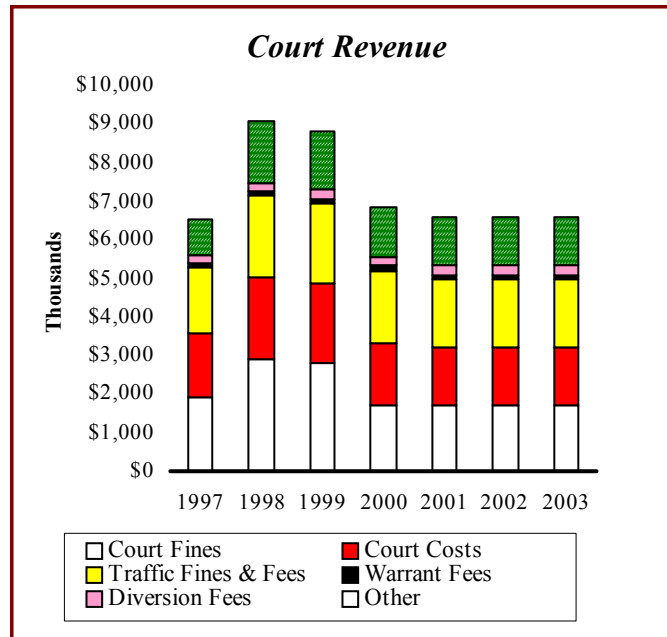
A contract for public defenders to serve indigent defendants is also funded. The costs for indigent defense are partially offset by a \$4 per case assessment and co-payments from the defendants.

Probation is comprised of eight probation officers and eight support staff. The staff monitors defendants sentenced to probation to ensure all of the probation requirements are met; performs pre-sentence investigations ordered by the judges, which assists the judges during sentencing; collects restitution; and fingerprints defendants.

Probation oversees the funding and operation of the Wichita Intervention Program, which provides alcohol

Selected Service Level Measures in Probation				
	1999	2000	2001	2002
Pre-sentence evaluations	2,738	2,306	2,388	2,480
Defendants fingerprinted	2,200	1,534	2,790	2,790
New probation cases	3,231	4,943	5,090	5,242
Probation cases closed	3,094	3,960	7,482	7,706

education and intervention for eligible first time defendants pleading guilty to driving under the influence. The program couples intervention with the state mandated 48 hours of incarceration and is self-supported by a \$200 program fee charged to the participants.

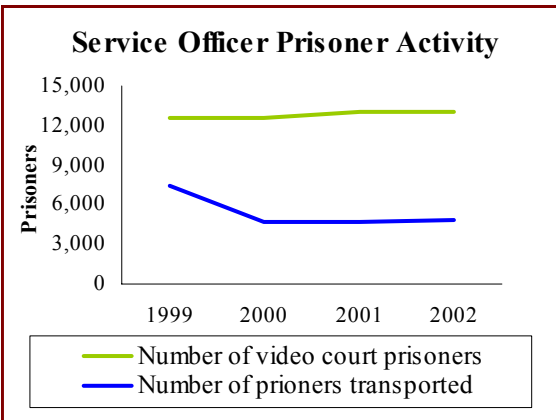


Probation office supervises four Service Officers that were added in 1999 through funding from the Local Law Enforcement Block Grant (LLEBG). The Service Officers focus on prisoner transportation duties and video arraignment.



Several sources of funds support Municipal Court operations, including: the General Fund; the LLEBG; and the Alcohol and Drug Safety Abuse Program (ADSAP) funds. ADSAP funds are controlled by the

Administrative Judge and can only be utilized for specific programs. Currently, ADSAP supports three positions: a Docket Clerk, Clerk II and Probation Officer.



In 1999, the Municipal Court initiated a Work Program. Defendants are offered the opportunity to either pay their fines or participate in community service work activities to work-off the fine at a rate of \$5 per hour. During 2000, there were 173 participants that worked 3,735.5 hours.

Municipal Court Budget Summary					
	1999 Actual	2000 Adopted	2000 Revised	2001 Adopted	2002 Approved
Personal Services	2,655,147	2,868,670	2,752,950	2,906,390	3,014,330
Contractual Services	1,397,999	1,521,420	1,440,660	1,534,240	1,534,410
Commoditized	60,805	79,180	85,200	93,320	91,780
Capital Outlay	0	0	2,150	0	0
Other	0	0	0	0	0
Total Local Expenditures	4,113,951	4,469,270	4,280,960	4,533,950	4,640,520
General Fund	4,113,951	4,469,270	4,280,960	4,533,950	4,640,520
Local Law Enforcement Block Grant	157,300	169,300	169,300	169,300	169,300
ADSAP Fund	107,101	165,665	186,920	186,920	186,920
Total full-time positions	70	70	70	70	70
Total part-time positions	31	31	31	31	31
Total FTE positions	74	74	74	74	74



**“Wichita...
a City Achieving the Extraordinary”**